

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Thursday, October 12, 2017

PRESENT: Chairperson Bill Miller

Directors Chris Beach
Eileen Benedict
Shane Brienen
Mark Fisher
Dwayne Lindstrom
Thomas Liversidge
Rob MacDougall
Rob Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Darcy Repen
Gerry Thiessen

Directors Taylor Bachrach, Town of Smithers
Absent Tom Greenaway, Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural)

Alternate Director Bob Hughes, Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural)

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Rory McKenzie, Director of Environmental Services – arrived at 11:07 a.m.
Janette Derksen, Deputy Director of Environmental Services
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Alistair Schroff, Lakes Animal Friendship Society – left at 11:16 a.m.

Media Flavio Nienow, LD News – arrived at 11:07 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Beach

C.W.2017-8-1

"That the Agenda of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Committee of the Whole meeting of October 12, 2017 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole
Minutes – September 7, 2017

Moved by Director MacDougall
Seconded by Director Petersen

C.W.2017-8-2

“That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of
September 7, 2017 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

LAKES ANIMAL FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY –Alistair Schroff Re: Update

Chair Miller welcomed Alistair Schroff, Lakes Animal Friendship Society (LAFS).

Mr. Schroff provided an update in regard to the Lakes Animal Friendship Society. LAFS held the Animal Care Event in spring 2017 and had 48 dogs and cats from Electoral Areas “B” (Burns Lake Rural), “E” (Fransois/Ootsa Lake Rural) and the Village of Burns Lake. The Village of Burns Lake in the past three years has impounded an average of 9 dogs per year. In the past the Village of Burns Lake has impounded an average of 57 dogs per year and in 2004, prior to the start of the Animal Care Event, impounded 105 dogs. This initiative has saved the Village of Burns Lake approximately \$60,000 in bylaw enforcement and impound costs. Mr. Schroff thanked the Village of Burns Lake and the Regional Board for supporting the Animal Care Events and LAFS initiatives and encouraged continued support.

He mentioned that the Districts of Vanderhoof and Fort St. James also have groups performing similar successful animal care events in their communities.

Vet to Pet Mobile, Dr. Kim Hunter from Telkwa, a 2017 RDBN Start-up Business Contest Finalist, attended the Burns Lake Animal Care Event to provide assistance and has travelled to other communities such as Fort St. James to provide assistance to underserved areas.

Mr. Schroff noted that the Animal Care Event model and spay/neuter initiatives that have taken place in Burns Lake and the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako have provided a model for other communities. LAFS has recently received an Imagine Grant from Northern Health to provide dog bite safety programs in Burns Lake, Vanderhoof and Fort St. James in the fall of 2017.

LAFS has been invited to speak at a Paws for Hope event in regard to solutions for overpopulation of dogs and cats in northern communities and First Nations communities. He mentioned that two volunteers are visiting Burns Lake from Minnesota, United States to visit schools with LAFS volunteers to learn about its program and initiatives, such as the build a dog house program. There is a sharing of information at a national level in regard to LAFS’ successful animal care initiatives.

Director Petersen noted that spaying and neutering of animals can be cost prohibitive for some individuals. Mr. Schroff mentioned that there has been grant funding from BC SPCA in the past along with Veterinarian Clinics and Doctors volunteering their time to assist with the costs with spay and neuter clinics and address over population issues. He mentioned that annual maintenance costs are now approximately \$12,000 per year to operate as opposed to \$50,000 per year due to the initial large scale events that took place to control over population. Mr. Schroff mentioned that there is assistance to lower income individuals and families to assist with animal care. He noted that pet owners need to take as much responsibility as possible in their ownership.

Director Beach spoke of the positive impact that the LAFS initiatives and Animal Care Events have had for the Village of Burns Lake.

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

LAKES ANIMAL FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY –Alistair Schroff Re: Update

Mr. Schroff noted that his contact information can be provided to any community organization or individuals wanting to research further information in regard to LAFS programs.

Chair Miller commented that animal care, safety and bite education programs have assisted with proper care and treatment of animals in the community.

Chair Miller thanked Mr. Schroff for attending the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

North Central Local
Government Association
Letters re Greyhound Service
Reduction

Moved by Director MacDougall
Seconded by Director Lindstrom

C.W.2017-8-3

“That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors write a letter to the Passenger Safety Transportation Board outlining its concerns about Greyhound Canada Transportation Corp.’s application to reduce service in central and northern B.C.”

Opposed: Director Fisher CARRIED
Director Repen

(All/Directors/Majority)

Director MacDougall brought forward concerns in regard to the impact to Fort St. James if Greyhound reduced its one day per week service to the community. He noted that passenger transportation is similar to an essential service in the north and that Greyhound needs to make an effort in the region they provide service. Director MacDougall commented that Fort St. James had its own transportation business prior to Greyhound coming to the community.

Director Fisher mentioned that Greyhound has shown a lack and willingness to provide passenger transportation to northern B.C. and other options may need to be developed.

Director Repen spoke to the decision made by the Village of Telkwa in regard to writing a letter due to Greyhound Canada Transportation Corp. being a private business.

Discussion took place in regard to Greyhound’s reason to request a reduction in service and non-local companies providing a service and not being good corporate citizens. Frustrations were expressed in regard to Greyhound’s lack of adequate passenger service for a number of years. The times in which Greyhound stops in communities is not conducive to passenger ridership, but was noted, based on freight pickup and delivery.

CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)

Chair Miller mentioned that in the short term Greyhound provides a critical transportation option for passenger travel that is not yet met by another provider and that in the long term there needs to be a more credible and robust passenger transportation system in northern B.C.

Correspondence & Invitation

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Brien

C.W.2017-8-4

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the following correspondence and invitation:

Correspondence

-Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Fort Fraser Sewer Condition Assessment Infrastructure Planning Grant;
-Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance – RBA Leaders Meet with Premier John Horgan to Start Revenue Sharing Agreement;
-BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service Division – Grizzly Bear Overpopulation Problem: Babine Lake Marine Provincial Park;

Invitation

-BC Municipal Climate Leadership Council – Deepening Climate Leadership, November 1-3, 2017 in Richmond, B.C.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director Newell

C.W.2017-8-5

“That the meeting be adjourned at 11:29 a.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bill Miller, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant